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Fate of the Freedom Fighters

To the Herald Tribune:

Nepszabadsag, the official newspaper of the Hungarian Communist party, has reported the arrest of Ferenc Mateovics, a former member of the Hungarian Parliament, and his three associates in Pecs, on charge of conspiracy against the state. The accusation was based on the fact that the defendants had demanded that Premier Kadar's widely advertised amnesty order be carried through.

For in spite of its promises and numerous statements abroad, the Kadar government has not released a single freedom fighter who was caught, weapon in hand, at the time of the revolution in 1956.

Neither have any of the 63,000 freedom fighters deported to Siberia after the revolution been permitted to return to Hungary.

Among the 150 freedom fighters who were underage at the time of their trial, all were executed with the exception of eight whose sentence was commuted to 10 to 15 years imprisonment. Despite the so-called amnesty, they are still held in the Central Prison on the outskirts of Budapest.

In the last weeks many among the so-called amnestied were taken back to jail because they had talked too much about their experiences in prison and the mass executions.

Kadar doesn't have to play the part of the good guy any longer. He has got his wheat.

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Political Prisoners.
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